(d) whether his Ministry has received any proposal for increasing the amount of gallantry awards; and

(e) if so, whether it is proposed to be increased from Rs. 100 to Rs. 1000?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the available records, with the Army Headquarters, approximately 8,676 gallantry awards were given to Indians in First and Second World Wars and, at present, about Rs. 20 lakhs is being spent annually.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) There is no Pre-lndependence gallantry award with monetary allowance of Rs. 100 per month.

**Recruitment of ladies**

198. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)whether ladies are recruited in the military in the country;

(b)if so, their number in each rank and force and the role assigned to them *vis-a-vis* their male counterparts;

(c)whether pay and amenities packages awarded to lady officers are much less than the men;

(d)if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e)whether such reported discrimination, exploitation and lack of security for women within the force are generating a lot of resentment among them; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the service conditions and pay packages for women in the force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statement is attached (See below).

(c) and (d) Pay scale of an officer is decided based on substantive rank held. Short Service Commission women officers in the Army do not get a lower scale of pay compared to similarly placed Short Service Commission men officers. As per a recent decision of the Government, both women and men officers appointed in Short Service Commission will get Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel scales after 2,6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively.

Women officers are granted permanent commission in the Medical, Nursing and Dental Services of the Defence Forces. They are not eligible for permanent commission in other Arms and Services in the Indian Army. However, this matter is being examined by the Chiefs of Staff Committee.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of reply to parts (c) and (d).

***Statement***

*Rank-wise number of ladies in the military*

| Rank | Army | Navy | Air Force | Medical/Dental/ Nursing Services |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lieutenant & Equivalent | 557 | 28 | 124 | 501 |
| Captain & Equivalent | 355 | 79 | 243 | 1047 |
| Major & Equivalent | — | 46 | 189 | 1193 |
| Lieutenant Colonel & Equivalent | | 2 | 9 | 1035 |
| Colonel & | — | — | — | 53 |
| Equivalent | — | — | — | 14 |
| Brigadier & Equivalent | | | | |
| Major General & Equivalent | — | — | — | 1 |
| TOTAL: | 912 | 155 | 565 | 3844 |